

with the beginning of written history\*  
 They may indeed be almost comparable in  
 antiquity with the annual flight of the swallows.  
 They have flowed in various directions, but the  
 main current has trended from north to south. since  
 until recent centuries the temptations of wealth  
 and luxury have lain southwards, where conditions  
 of life have been easier and more productive. India  
 owes its intellectual glories to tribes of  
 northmen. generally styled the " Aryans,"<sup>55</sup> who some  
 3,500 years ago broke through its mountain  
 barriers and settled in the Indo-Gangetic plain.  
 They introduced into India the Sanskrit  
 language. The modern tongue which is most nearly  
 akin to it is the Lettish, which is spoken on the  
 shores of the Baltic : and, from this fact and from  
 references to scenery which occur in ancient  
 Sanskrit hymns, we may assume without rashness  
 that the Aryans had their original home in  
 Northern Europe. It appears from their early  
 literature that their women were free, and were  
 actually permitted to choose their own  
 husbands. But most of the Arvan tribes took wives  
 from amongst the daughters of the Indian soil : the  
 Indian climate cannot have been congenial to  
 them, and by the beginning of our era they  
 appear to have lost their northern characteristics.  
 They have bequeathed to India a literature which  
 may be compared with that of classical  
 Greece. But within historical times their blood has

not been  
able to stir the habitual placidity of  
Oriental  
thought.

The ancient civilizations of Egypt and  
Assyria  
appear to have had much in common  
with the  
conditions of modern China. The  
people were  
fast bound by ties of family and  
religion : their  
lives were directed by vivid  
conceptions of  
existence after death. Their houses  
were small,